

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 VALLET 00337 201303Z

13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /167 W

----- 102211

R 201010Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5272

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 0337

E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 2/20/75

TAGS: ENRG, MT, LY

SUBJ: NO AGREEMENT ON MEDIAN LINE

REF: A. VALLETTA 292 B. VALLETTA 185

1. PM MINTOFF STATED IN PARLIAMENTARY REPLY TO QUESTION BY
OPPOSITION MEMBER DR. H. FARRUGIA FEB. 19 THAT DESPITE CONTINUOUS
NEGOTIATIONS FOR PAST TWO YEARS WITH LARG, AGREEMENT NOT YET
REACHED ON MEDIAL LINE BETWEEN LIBYA AND MALTA FOR OIL EXPLORATION.

2. FULL TEXT MINTOFF' S WRITTEN ANSWER AS FOLLOWS: "THE MALTESE
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT FOR
ABOUT TWO YEARS ON THE EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS FOR OIL
EXPLORATION PURPOSES. IT APPEARS THAT A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN
SHORTLY. SINCE THERE IS STILL A WIDE DIVERGENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN
THE TWO SIDES IT DOES NOT SEEM PROPER AND ADVANTAGEOUS TO MALTA
TO PUBLSIH THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US."

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3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS, ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON MEDIAL

LINE IS ONE OF TWO FACTORS DELAYING WORD OF CONCESSIONS
FOR NEW MDINA BANK EXPLORATION AREA SOUTHWEST OF MALTA.
OTHER FACTORS IS GOM DESIRE OBTAIN MOST ADVANTAGEOUS
TERMS POSSIBLE FOR BIDDERS.GETZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, TERRITORIAL WATERS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, NEGOTIATIONS
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005